

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A printing system that individually dispenses printed sections of a web comprising:

the web being divisible along lines of perforation that extend between a center and two edges of the web and contain a pattern of ties that are weaker at the center of the web than at either of the two edges;

a printer that prints information on the divisible sections of the web; and

a feed path along which the divisible sections of the web are advanced in sequence through the printer to a position at which the lines of perforation can be individually burst by a tensile force applied along a length of the web starting by rupturing the weaker ties at the center of the web and proceeding to rupture the ties at the two edges of the web.

2. (Original) The printing system of claim 1 in which the printer applies a braking force that prevents subsequent sections of the web from being prematurely dispensed through the printer.

3. (Original) The printing system of claim 2 in which the force applied along the length of the web initially stresses both the ties located at the center of the web as well as the ties located at the two edges of the web.

4. (Currently amended) The printing system of claim 1 in which the web includes front and back surfaces, at least the front surface being printed with information from the printer ~~and the back surface being pre-printed~~ in a pattern ~~repeated~~ on the divisible sections of the web.

5. (Original) The printing system of claim 4 in which the printer is a thermal printer and the front surface of the web includes a thermosensitive coating for forming images imparted by heat patterns of the thermal printer.

6. (Original) The printing system of claim 1 in which the ties located adjacent to the center of the web are narrower than the ties located adjacent to the edges of the web along the lines of perforation.

7. (Original) The printing system of claim 6 in which the ties located adjacent to the center of the web are at least 20 percent weaker than the ties located adjacent to the edges of the web.

8. (Currently amended) A printing system that individually dispenses printed sections of a web comprising:

the web being divisible along lines of perforation that extend between a center and two edges of the web and contain a pattern of ties that are weaker next to the center of the web than next to either of the two edges;

a printer that prints information on the divisible sections of the web;

a feed path along which the divisible sections of the web are advanced in sequence through the printer to a position at which successive sections of the web are exposed and individually separated from the remaining web sections by tensile forces applicable through a range of positions straddling a centerline of the web;

a first of the tensile forces being applicable through a position offset from the centerline for ~~tearing~~ bursting the lines of perforation starting at one edge of the web and proceeding through the center to the other edge of the web;

a second of the tensile forces being applicable through a position aligned with the centerline for bursting the lines of perforation starting at the center of the web and proceeding to both edges of the web; and

magnitudes of the first and second tensile forces required for bursting the lines of perforation being made more nearly equal by the pattern of ties that are weaker next to the center of the web than next to either of the two edges.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 in which the first tensile force initially stresses the ties located next to one edge of the web without initially stressing the ties located next to the other edge of the web.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8 in which the second tensile force initially stresses both the ties located next to the center of the web as well as the ties located next to the two edges of the web.

11. (Original) A method of dispensing individual sheets of a print media from a printer comprising the steps of:

advancing a web of the print media having a succession of sheets separated by lines of perforation to a position at which one of the sheets can be printed;

printing the one sheet;

further advancing the web of print media to a position at which the one sheet can be manually gripped along a centerline between two edges of the web of print media;

gripping the one sheet along the centerline of the web;

applying a tensile force along the web centerline;

opposing the tensile force with a braking force applied to the web of print media between a line of perforation separating the one sheet and a remaining portion of the print media; and

breaking ties located along the line of perforation separating the one sheet from the remaining portion of the web starting with ties located adjacent to the centerline and proceeding to ties located adjacent to the

edges of the web for dispensing the one sheet of print media from the printer.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 in which the tensile force applied along the centerline of the web initially stresses both the ties located adjacent to the centerline of the web as well as the ties located adjacent to the two edges of the web.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 in which the step of printing includes printing unique information of the individual sheets dispensed from the printer.

14. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a web of print media dispensable as individual sheets comprising the steps of:

advancing a web of print media along an in-line press, the web having a longitudinal centerline spaced between two edges;

printing indicia in regularly spaced patterns along the web;

cutting regularly spaced lines of perforation along the web in directions that extend transversely of the web between the two edges;

registering the printed indicia and the lines of perforation for dividing the web into the individually dispensable sheets; and

forming ties along the lines of perforation that are weaker near the centerline of the web than near the edges of the web for dispensing the

sheets from the web with a reduced force while maintaining resistance to inadvertently breaking the web during subsequent handling.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 including the further step of forming slits separating the ties along the lines of perforation with slits separating the ties formed near the centerline of the web from the ties formed near the edges of the web having increased width with respect to the slits separating the remaining ties to support deformation of the web from a planar form during dispensing.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 in which the steps of printing indicia and cutting regularly spaced lines of perforation are performed on different in-line presses.

17. (Original) A dispensing system for dispensing sheets from a web of print media comprising:

the web of print media including a succession of sheets separated by lines of perforation that extend between a center and two edges of the web;

the lines of perforation including a pattern of ties that are weaker next to the center of the web than next to either of the two edges; and

a feed path through a dispenser along which the succession of sheets are advanced to a position at which the lines of perforation can be individually burst by a tensile force applied along a length of the web starting

by rupturing the weaker ties at the center of the web and proceeding to rupture the ties at the two edges of the web.

18. (Original) The dispensing system of claim 17 in which the dispenser includes a brake that prevents the sheets from being prematurely dispensed in advance of being separated from the web along the lines of perforation.

19. (Original) The dispensing system of claim 17 in which the ties located adjacent to the center of the web are narrower than the ties located adjacent to the edges of the web along the lines of perforation.

20. (Original) The dispensing system of claim 17 in which the ties located adjacent to the center of the web are at least 20 percent weaker than the ties located adjacent to the edges of the web.

21. (Original) The dispensing system of claim 17 in which the ties occupy a larger portion of the lines of perforation adjacent to the edges of the web than adjacent to the centerline of the web sufficient to relatively increase resistance to tearing along the lines of perforation starting near either of the two edges while relatively decreasing resistance to tearing along the same lines of perforation starting near the centerline of the web.

22. (Original) The dispensing system of claim 17 in which the web of print media is arranged as a fan-folded stack prior to advancing the succession of sheets along the feed path.